Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 NSC-05 USSS-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-01 /058 W -------059236 121417Z /50

R 121300Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8968

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (BLUMENTHAL, W. MICHAEL)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL: TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 207224, (B) STATE 212108, (C) STATE 212148, (D) KUWAIT 4988

1. AMBASSADOR ACCOMPANIED BY DCM (CONTROL OFFICER) AND ADMIN OFFICER MET SEPT. 11 WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL MUTAWA FOR PRELIMINARY GENERAL DISCUSSION RE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREASURY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO KUWAIT OCTOBER 25-26. FOLLOWING DESCRIBES TENTATIVE PLANNING CONCERNING CHEDULE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, OCTOBER 26:

0900 COURTESY CALL ON H.H. AMIR SHAIKH SABAH AL-SALEM AL-SABAH.

--CALL SHOULD MORMALLY BE BRIEF, ALTHOUGH ON OCCASION
AMIR IS IN EXPANSIVE MOOD AND COULD EXTEND DISCUSSION. (TIME
FOR INTERPRETATION MUST ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT SINCE
AMIR AND CROWN PRINCE HAVE ONLY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH
AND CONDUCT THEIR OFFICIAL MEETINGS IN ARABIC.)
0930 MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER
H.H. SHAIKH JABER AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH (HIS
OFFICE IS LOCATED ACROSS PALACE COURTYARD
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FROM AMIR'S).

--MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE, WHO IS PRIME MINISTER AND DE FACTO PRIMARY DECISION-MAKER IN GOK, WILL BE SUBSTANTIVE. HE HAS KEEN INTEREST IN FINANCIAL MATTERS. PROTOCOL CHIEF EXPECTS MEETING TO LAST 1-1 1/2 HOURS. BRIFING POINTS MADE IN REF. D ARE GERMANE TO MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE AS WELL AS TO FOLLOWING MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER.

1100 MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER ABDUL RAHMAN L-ATEEQI.

--THIS SHOULD BE PRINCIPAL SUBSTANTIVE MEETING DURING KUWAIT VISIT. MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ENGLISH WHICH ATEEQI SPEAKS QUITE FLUENTLY. (SHAIKH ALI KHALIFA, MINFIN UNDERSECRETARY, AND ABDUL LATIF AL-HAMAD, KUWAIT FUND DIRECTOR, MAY OR MAY NOT BE PRESENT. MUTAWA SAID HE WOULD CHECK INTO MATTER BUT THAT IF AL-KHALIFA WERE NOT PRESENT, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SEPARATE MEETING IF ANY SENIOR MEMBER OF SECRETARY'S DELEGATION DESIRED).

--ATEEQI HAS NOW INDICATED HE WOULD HOST LUNCHEON AT SHERATON HOTEL WHICH IS CLOSE TO FINANCE MINISTRY (WALKING DISTANCE). DELEGATION GUESTS WOULD PRESUMABLY INCLUDE THOSE SENIOR MEMBERS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS. 430 DEPART DIRECTLY FROM SHERATON TO AIRPORT FOR TAKEOFF AT 1500 HOURS.

- --MEMBERS OF DELEGATION NOT LUNCHING WITH FINANCE MINISTER WILL LUNCH AT HILTON AND DEPART FOR AIRPORT AT 1400 HOURS.
- 3. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT NO TIME FOR EMBASSY BRIEFING HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN ABOVE SCHEDULE, SINCE SECRETARY AND PARTY ARRIVE LATE OCTOBER 25. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS THAT HE COULD COME BY HOTEL AT AROUND 0800 HOURS TO BRIEF SECRETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS PARTICIPATING INTALKS, IF THIS IS AGREEABLE.

- 4. PROTOCOL CHIEF RECOMMENDS THAT SECRETARY MEET THE LOCAL PRESS BRIEFING ON ARRIVAL AT THE VIP LOUNGE. IF THIS IS ACCEPTABLE, EMBASSY WILL PREPARE SUGGESTED ARRIVAL STATEMENT. APART FROM ARRIVAL TIME, IT WOULD APPEAR TIGHT SCHEDULE PRECLUDES OTHER MEETINGS WITH PRESS, UNLESS SECRETARY DESIRES TO ARRANGE SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE.
- 5. ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: PASSPORTS SHOULD
 BE PRE-COLLECTED FOR DELIVERY TO EMBOFF WHO WILL GIVE
 TO GOK PROTOCOL OFFICER FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING. PLEASE
 PROVIDE COMPLETE LIST OF NAMES AND PASSPORT DATA TO
 ENABLE GOK TO FACILITATE THIS PROCESS.

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 NSC-05 USSS-00 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-01 /058 W

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6. HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS: ONE ENTIRE FLOOR OF HILTON HOTEL (ACROSS STREET FROM EMBASSY) HAS BEEN RESERVED, CONSISTING OF 31 ROOMS INCLUDING TWO LARGE SUITES AND TWO SMALL SUITES. ALL BUT A FEW OF THESE ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PLACE PRESS MEMBERS ON ANOTHER FLOOR. ELEVATOR LOCATIONS AT HILTON MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO DIVIDE FLOOR SO THAT PRESS CAN BE LOCATED AT ONE END OF FLOOR. SUGGEST THAT TWO LARGE SUITES BY RESERVED FOR SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND UNDERSECRETARY SOLOMON. WOULD APPRECIATE SUGGESTION RE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO SMALL SUITES LOCATED AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF CORRIDOR (ONE IN AREA WHERE PRESS WILL BE LOCATED). SINCE THERE IS NO DEFENSE ATTACHE AT THIS EMBASSY, EMBASSY WILL ARRANGE TO ACCOMMODATE FLIGHT CREW, PROBABLY AT HILTON ALSO. PLEASEINFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HOW MANY ROOMS WILL BE NECESSARY. UNLESS MORE ROOMS THAN THE 30 ORIGINALLY REQUESTED ARE NEEDED, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN PROVIDING TREASURY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL ROOMS PER PARAS FOUR AND SEVEN REF B. MARINE SECURITY GUARD CAN PROTECT CLASSIFIED STORAGE AT CONTROL ROOM. EMBASSY IS SHORT WALK FROM HOTEL AND CAN EASILY STORE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL IF DESIRED.

7. WE ARE EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR DIRECT TELEPHONE CONNECTION BETWEEN SECRETARY'S SUITE, CONTROL ROOM, AND EMBASSY. THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE TECHNICALLY COMPLEX, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE. BOTH ROOMS WILL DEFINITELY HAVE DIRECT LOCAL DIAL CAPABILITY BYPASSING HOTEL SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR.

7. TRANSPORTATION: GOK HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO

PROVIDE LIMOUSINE FOR SECRETARY AND TEN CARS WITH DRIVERS AS WELL AS BUS. DRIVERS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ENGLISH SPEAKERS, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DRIVERS FOR HIRED CARS WOULD ALSO HAVE VERY LIMITED ENGLISH KNOWLEDGE. PROTOCOL CHIEF POINTS OUT THAT PROTOCOL OFFICER ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY WILL SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH AND CAN DIRECT DRIVER AS DESIRED. EMBASSY DESPATCHER WILL BE AVAILABLE AT HOTEL TO DIRECT TOEHR DRIVERS. PLEASE INDICATE IF ADDITIONAL VEHICLES WILL BE NECESSARY. WE EXPECT THAT THESE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM GOK. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EMBASSY'S OWN MOTOR POOL IS INADEQUATE TO DO MORE THAN MEET EMBASSY STAFF MOVEMENT NEEDS TO SUPPORT VISIT.

9. ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE WE ANTICIPATE RECEIVING
PERMISSION FOR THREE VEHICLES TO BE AT PLANESIDE:
BAGGAGE TRUCK, SECRETARY'S LUGGAGE STATION WAGON, AND CLASSIFIED
ATERIAL CARRYALL. IT IS SHORT WALK THROUGH VIP LOUNGE
TO PARKING AREA WHERE MOTORCADE WILL BE WAITING.

10 USIS DOES NOT HAVE PHOTO CAPABILITY BUT EMBASSY PLANS HIRE STILL PHOTOGRAPHER TO COVER CALLS BY SECRETARY ON KUWAITI OFFICIALS, KUWAIT TV WILL ALSO COVER EVENTS.

10. EMBASSY WISHES DEVELOP SCHEDULE IN OFFICIAL CALLS. SIGHTSEEING IN KUWAIT IS LIMITED, BUT EMBASSY COULD ARRANGE BUS TRIP TO NEARBY DHOW-SHIPYARD AREA, AND ALSO VISIT TO SOUK SHOPPING AREA WHERE GOLD ARTIFACTS CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE THE PRINCIPAL ATTRACTION. PLEASE ADVISE.

11. EMBASSY REQUESTS FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS SOON AS AVAILABLE: (A) WILL THERE BE ANY WIVES ACCOMPANYING PARTY?; (B) HOW MANY PRESS REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE IN PARTY?; (C) THE NAMES OF CONGRESSMEN ACCOMPANYING THE PARTY; (D) FULL NAMES AND TITLES FOR MESSRS LAITIN AND GODLEY; (E) PROTOCOL RANKING OF SENIOR DELEGATION MEMBERS.

12. NOTE: ALL VISITORS SHOULD HAVE RECENT CHOLERA SHOTS, BECAUSE OF GROWING NUMBER OF CHOLERA CASES REPORTED IN JORDAN AND SYRIA.

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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